

Canine Carnage Shocks Daniels

Chris Briscoe began his morning like all the others. He awoke early and at a few minutes before 6 a.m., as part of his morning ritual, he let his dog, Oliver, outside. The dog sauntered to the end of the driveway and a couple of minutes later ran back inside the house. Mr. Briscoe then left for work. An hour later his wife, Eloise, noticed Oliver starting to vomit, followed by convulsions. She rushed the dog to the veterinarian but the treatment failed. A short time later, the Briscoe's dog died.

Residents in the Daniel's area are angry, angry over a spree of poisonings that occurred last Friday night and early Saturday morning. As of Tuesday, 12 dogs and two cats have died. No arrests have been made, and the tests to identify the poison have not been completed.

A team of three deputies is investigating the incident and the Sheriff's Department has issued a warning to all Daniel's Canyon residents to use caution when outside, and to advise their children not to pick up anything that might be suspected as bait, especially any meat products.

The people who have had their dogs poisoned are expressing a mixture of anger, sorrow, confusion and disgust. "Our dogs are like our children," said Chris Briscoe. "For us to lose two dogs is like another couple losing their children — or their best friend."

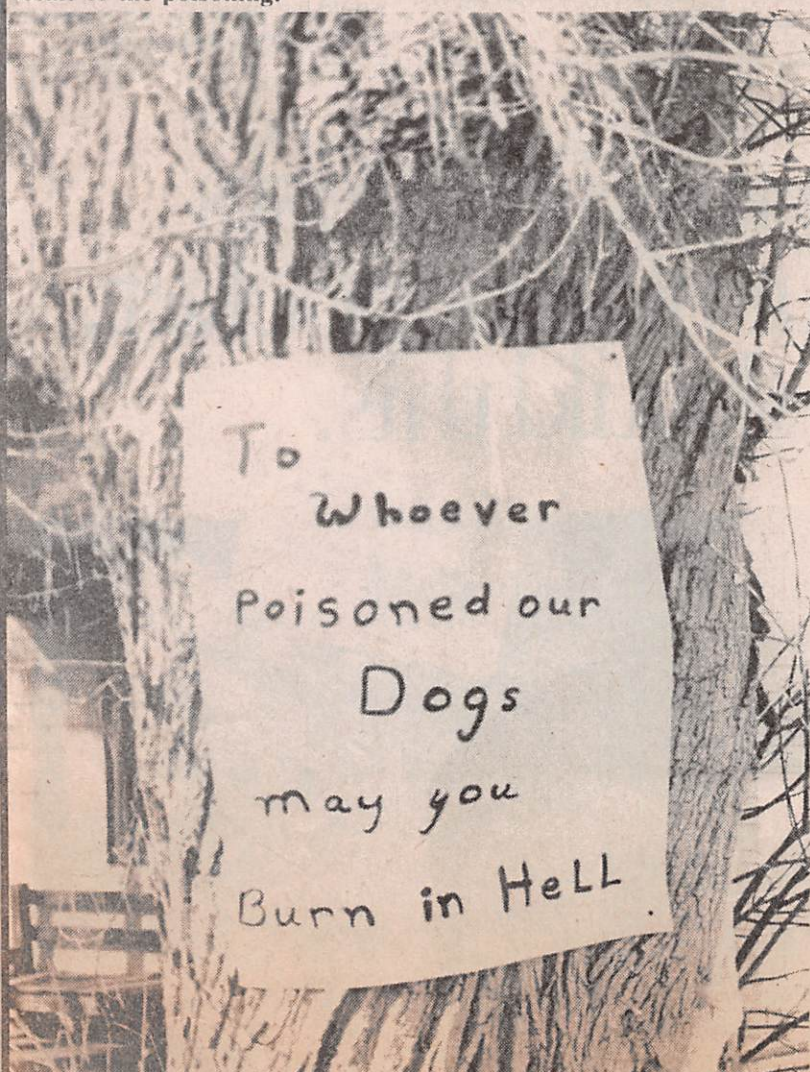
Larry Ward, a resident in the Daniel's area, discovered his dog, Sugar, dead early Saturday morning. At midnight Mr. Ward put his dog on a chain in the front yard and when he returned at 4:30 a.m., he discovered her dead. "She was the most lovely and beautiful dog. Everyone loved her because she was so gentle. My wife teaches preschool and the kids just loved her," said Mr. Ward.

"My kids just cried," said Candy Mifflin who lost two dogs to poisoning. When she was preparing to leave for work she discovered one of her dogs, Daisy, underneath the car and the other, Columbus, in the garage, "hanging down in the stairs to our loft. It was grotesque. He had twisted himself through the stair openings, and there was vomit all around the garage."

After overcoming the initial shock, residents notified their neighbors, but in a few instances it was too late. Nancy Hilton received a call from a neighbor who warned her to lock up her dog, Blacky. "We locked her up most of the weekend and then at 4 p.m. on Sunday we let her out for an hour and at 6 p.m. I went into the garage and she was in

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Chris and Eloise Briscoe stand at the end of their driveway where poisoned meat had been scattered late Friday night and early Saturday morning. "If you walk along this road you won't hear any dogs barking," said Mr. Briscoe. So far 12 dogs and two cats have died as a result of the poisoning.



Signs such as these have proliferated in the Daniel's area. Some express disgust and others are offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the poisonings.

January 31st (Saturday) The Annual Heber Valley Classic Dog Sled Races will be held at Wasatch Mountain State Park. Races begin at 9:30 a.m.

February 1st (Sunday) The Annual Heber Valley Classic Dog Sled Races will be held at Wasatch Mountain State Park. Races begin at 9:30 a.m.

February 3rd (Tuesday) "Heber Valley — Preserving a Heritage/Securing a Destiny," an economic development seminar is currently being held at Midway School at 7 p.m.

February 5th (Thursday) Rep. Beverly Evans will hold an open meeting at the Commissioner Chambers at the County Courthouse from 7 to 8 p.m.

If your club or organization is planning an event and would like to place it on The Calendar of Events, please contact The Wasatch Wave office at 654-1471.

ler, spokesman Mountain
lands Association of Govern
ments.

The report stated, "...it will be difficult to achieve adoption unless the total package is fairly 'expenditure neutral' at the state and local level. The concept of 'trade offs' has been advanced as a method of meeting this objective, i.e., if the state assumes the total administration and funding of a program currently shared with the counties, the counties will increase funding of some other program or programs also shared with the state, to permit state reduction of funding to offset the cost to the state of the assumed program."

Chandler noted the bills would transfer from county to state jurisdiction such programs as juvenile detention, the medical indigent program and sanity examinations when a state offense is involved. As trade offs, the committee recommends the state consider reducing the counties' shares of liquor profits, juvenile court fines, Discretionary Social Service Block funds, or mental health, aging and health allocations.

The first of three options offered by the committee is to "trade off state assumption of juvenile detention for transfer of the county share of juvenile detention for transfer of the county share of juvenile court fines into the state general fund, with the remainder of the offset to come from a reduction in the Discretionary Social Service (SS) Block funds currently allocated to counties."

It notes that the Association of Counties has already agreed to relinquish juvenile court fines as part of the trade off and that it would be an easy, appropriate, straightforward trade off.

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convulsions. It just made me sick to see how she was acting. When I yelled for my husband, she fell over."

Infuriated residents have put together a reward of \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the poisonings. Half of the reward is being donated by the Humane Society and the other half has been raised by concerned residents who have formed the group RAPP (Residents Against Pet Poisoning).

Heber and Summit County Veterinarian Lee Erickson stated that he has never seen so many poisonings at one time in the 25 years that he has practiced in the valley. He advises pet owners who suspect that their pet has eaten poisonous bait, to induce

vomiting immediately with salt water or soap.

The hostility towards the person responsible for the poisonings has become explosive. "I'd like to have had them here to see the pain they caused my kids. They hurt an innocent family," said Candy Mifflin. "We can't even fathom someone as being so cruel. It's beyond my imagination."

And, finally, some people like Larry Ward are doing their best to contain the anger they feel — but still it has been difficult for them. "Visitors and relatives always seemed to come just to see Sugar. I use to love to take her hiking in the mountains," he said growing quiet. Then after a moment he added, "I don't know who did it, and right now I don't want to know...I would rather never know."

When medical costs come out of your pocket, so should this.

